

RELIEF TO FAMILIES OF PERSONS OCCUPYING LAND  
(IRELAND).

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RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons,  
dated 10 February 1880;—for,

COPY "of CIRCULAR of 7th February 1880, issued by the Local Government Board for *Ireland* to Boards of Guardians, relating to the RELIEF to FAMILIES of PERSONS occupying LAND."

Irish Office,  
19 February 1880. }

F. J. CULLINAN.

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(No. 3236/80.—Miscellaneous.)

Local Government Board,  
Dublin, 7 February 1880.

RELIEF TO FAMILIES OF PERSONS OCCUPYING LAND.

Sir,

THE Local Government Board for Ireland desire to inform the Board of Guardians that they have recently obtained legal advice in regard to the latter part of the 2nd Section of 25 & 26 Vict. c. 83, which provides that "any person who shall be in occupation of any land of greater extent than a quarter of a statute acre, and who shall be considered by the Board of Guardians to require relief, shall be relieved by them in the Workhouse, and not otherwise."

The Legal Adviser of the Board and the Law Officers of the Crown having been consulted on the subject, are of opinion that the prohibition of out-door relief in the case of a man holding more than a quarter of an acre of land applies only to the occupier himself, and that if his wife or any member of his family is permanently disabled from labour by reason of old age, infirmity, or bodily or mental defect, or disabled from labour by reason of severe sickness, or serious accident, the Guardians can, under Section 1 of 10 Vict. cap. 31, relieve such person, being destitute, either in or out of the Workhouse; and further, that when an order under Section 2 of that Act is in force in a union, the wife and children of a man holding more than a quarter of an acre of land may be relieved, if destitute, out of the Workhouse, although healthy and able-bodied.

The Local Government Board request that you will at once draw the attention of the Board of Guardians to the contents of this Circular, and to the necessity of their giving instructions to the Relieving Officers in accordance with the legal opinion contained in it.

By Order of the Board,  
B. Banks,  
Secretary.

To the Clerk of each Union.